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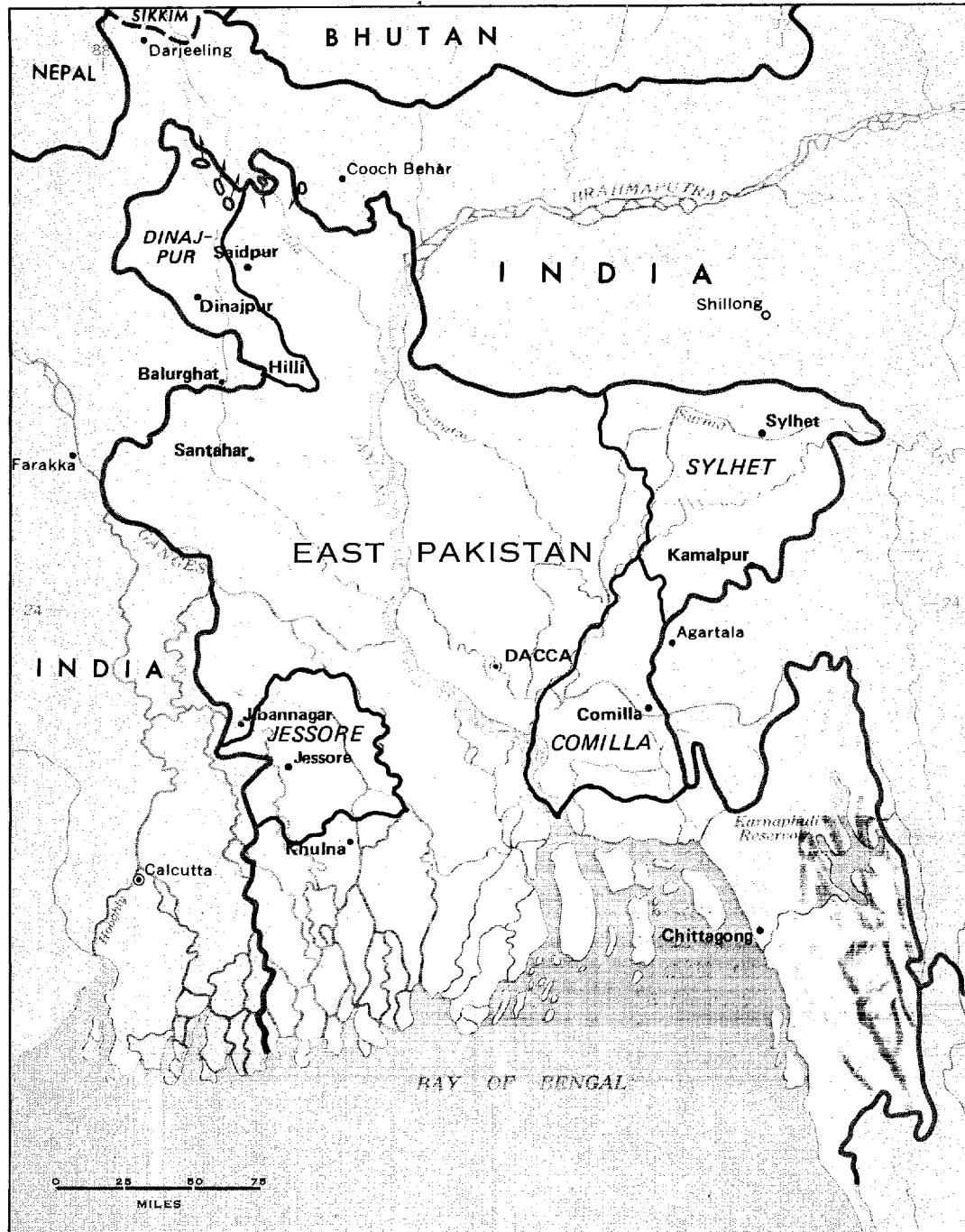


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INDIA-PAKISTAN: Pakistan claimed yesterday that Indian troops were stepping up their attacks in the Jessore, Sylhet, Comilla, and Dinajpur areas along the India - East Pakistan border.

The Indians continue to insist that most of the fighting is being carried on by the Mukti Bahini guerrillas, but New Delhi did acknowledge yesterday that its troops have been operating in East Pakistan's Dinajpur District near Hilli--an area from which India claims Pakistan has been shelling the Indian town of Balurghat. The Pakistanis claim that Indian troops, supported by armor and artillery, have attacked in the Jessore area and captured the town of Jibannagar, which controls a 165-square-mile triangle of land jutting into Indian West Bengal. Pakistan called up its air force reserves yesterday, but this does not involve a large number of men and is probably intended largely for propaganda purposes.

Meanwhile, at the UN, the Belgian and Japanese resolutions aimed at halting the fighting have now been merged. The Belgians yesterday told US officials in Brussels that the Indians had termed their efforts "ill-timed and irresponsible." This followed Prime Minister Gandhi's public statement Sunday that "no justice can be expected from the Security Council," and a weekend article in Pravda affirming Soviet opposition to attempts to involve the Security Council in the crisis.

The India - West Pakistan border region remains quiet. There are reports that Pakistan's 7th Division has moved out of its Peshawar cantonment, possibly toward the Indian border. If so, this means Pakistan has sent its last remaining division up to the border. Such a move might indicate plans to initiate action on the western frontier or at least a Pakistani belief that the likelihood of hostilities in the west has increased. On 26 November Pakistani military officers told US officials in Lahore that Pakistan's posture in the India - West Pakistan border areas was one of readiness for offensive, not defensive, operations.

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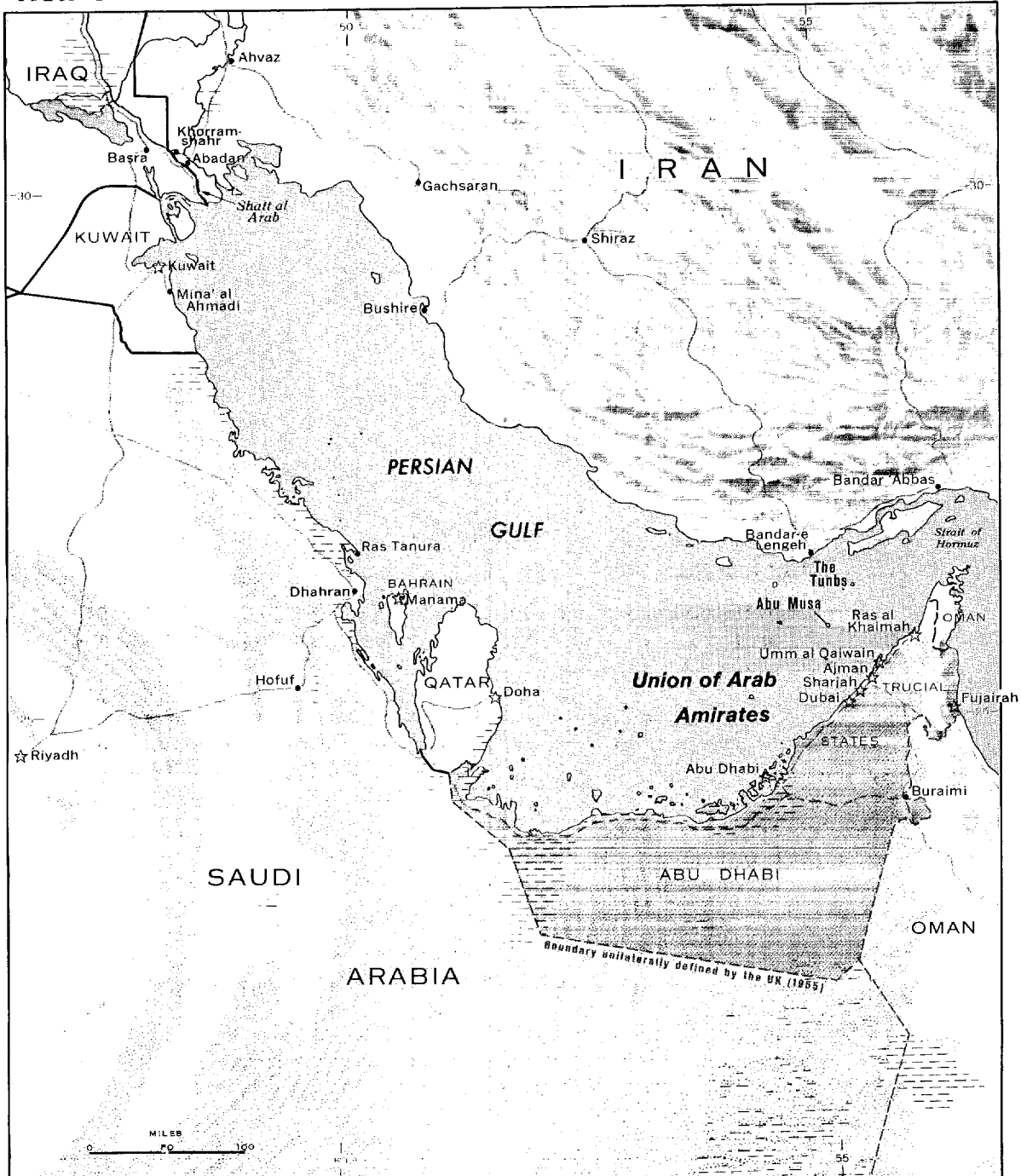
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New Gulf State to be Proclaimed



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PERSIAN GULF: The rulers of six Gulf sheikdoms will proclaim the independence of the Union of Arab Emirates on Thursday.

The UK, which has been responsible for the foreign and defense policy of the Trucial States, will terminate its treaty arrangements tomorrow. Planning for a federation has been under way since early 1968 when London announced it was withdrawing its military forces from east of the Suez. The six rulers signed a provisional constitution last July. Details of the structure of the union government have not been announced, but Sheik Zayid of Abu Dhabi will be its first president and dominant personality. The union will apply for UN membership in December.

Ras al Khaimah, the seventh Trucial State, found the constitution unacceptable and has refused to join the union. British officials are making another effort to bring Ras al Khaimah into the organization, but the ruler of the tiny sheikdom will probably declare independence on Thursday.

Sharjah, which will be a member of the union, announced yesterday that an agreement had been reached with Tehran which will permit Iranian troops to occupy part of the island of Abu Musa. In return, Iran will pay Sharjah an annual stipend.



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SOUTH VIETNAM: The murder of an anti-Communist newspaper publisher in Saigon yesterday may indicate a renewed Viet Cong emphasis on urban political intimidation.

The action marks the fourth assassination attempt against a well-known figure in the capital during the last six months. There is as yet no direct evidence linking the murder to the Communists, but it was carried out in an overt manner characteristic of past Communist assassinations. Recently captured enemy documents indicate that Viet Cong cadres responsible for assassination operations in the capital have been given additional funds this year. The other recent targets were influential anti-Communist leaders in labor, student, and political party activities.

While assassination has long been one of the standard tools of the Communists, especially in the countryside, attempts to kill influential leaders in the major cities have been relatively rare since the 1968 Tet offensive. The series of actions in recent weeks could mean that the Communists now feel that, as the war shifts increasingly into a political struggle, more selective killings of urban political figures are necessary to discourage the development of popular non-Communist political groups in South Vietnam. The Communists also may have decided that assassinations offer them a low-cost means of making their influence felt now that their military options in South Vietnam are more restricted.

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FINLAND: In an apparent prelude to recognition of both Vietnams, the Finnish ambassadors in Peking and Tokyo will visit Hanoi and Saigon, respectively, on "fact-finding missions" in the next few weeks. Recognition of both governments would place Finland in line with its Scandinavian neighbors; Denmark and Norway recognized North Vietnam earlier this month. It also would continue Helsinki's delicate balancing act between East and West, highlighted last September by a conditional offer to recognize both Germanies. This gesture was quickly stifled by Bonn but overtures to the Vietnamese capitals might be accepted.

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URUGUAY: The two traditional parties easily defeated a leftist challenge in Sunday's general election, but the outcome of the presidential race remains in doubt. A massive turnout has slowed the vote count, which yesterday showed the early lead built by the incumbent Colorados in the capital being whittled away by the strength of the major opposition Blancos in the interior. With approximately one million of an estimated 1.6 million votes tabulated, the Colorados led the Blancos by a 34,000-vote margin. Several of the interior departments not yet reporting, however, represent areas of Blanco strength. Adding further uncertainty, absentee ballots now number at least 160,000, and these may not be counted for several days.

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